

to stand up to the enemy. That was a trademark of Jeremiah Denton—he never gave up the fight.

In his most memorable moment, Denton blinked the words “torture” in Morse code during a televised propaganda interview. This was the first time Americans and the world learned the extent of torture that American POWs were experiencing. Jeremiah Denton’s bold, steadfast courage in the face of constant torture embodies the American spirit of perseverance against all odds.

Thankfully, Denton would later be released during diplomatic negotiations known as “Operation Homecoming.” Upon his return to American soil, Denton proudly declared: “We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our commander-in-chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America.”

Denton went on to receive the Navy Cross, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, three Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and many other military honors.

Later in life, Denton became the first Republican elected to the United States Senate from Alabama since Reconstruction. In the Senate, he worked to combat the spread of communism and strengthen our nation’s defense. He was a strong advocate for family values and a voice of reason in the Senate.

After his time in the Senate, Jeremiah Denton maintained a very modest life, offering counsel to others interested in public service, never wavering in his commitment to our great nation.

On May 28, 2014, America lost one of our finest heroes as Jeremiah Denton passed away at the age of 89.

Jeremiah Denton embodies what it means to be a public servant in every sense of the word. When his nation needed him, he always answered the call of duty and stood tall in the face of doubt and despair. He never once wavered in his commitment to serving our country, steadfastly enduring torture by the North Vietnamese.

It is often said that the measure of a man is not what he takes with him when he dies, but rather what he leaves behind. Jeremiah Denton left behind a remarkable example for future generations of what it means to be a great and proud American. He left behind a legacy that can never be filled.

We are proud to claim Jeremiah Denton as a native son of Mobile. I admire him for his passion for service, and I strive to emulate his example.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I honor the life of Senator Jeremiah Denton, not only today, but each and every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 8, 2014, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall 369 and “yea” on rollcall 370.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF SHELTER HOUSE, INC. AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable efforts of Shelter House, Inc., and to congratulate the recipients of the 2014 Volunteer Awards. Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization that works to break the cycle of homelessness by offering support to those most in need in the Northern Virginia community. Shelter House provides crisis intervention, temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, training, counseling, and programs to support self-sufficiency. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

Shelter House was founded in 1981 by several faith groups, which came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates three shelters: The Katherine K. Hanley and the Patrick Henry family shelters, which provide temporary housing for local families who become homeless, and Artemis House, Fairfax County’s only emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. By partnering with Falls Church Presbyterian Church, Shelter House added permanent housing to its portfolio at the Ives House. Construction of additional permanent housing began earlier this year.

The programs operated by Shelter House have contributed greatly to breaking the cycle of homelessness. In FY 2013, Shelter House served 1,858 people in 523 households and significantly reduced the average length of stay for families at each of its shelters. FY 2013 was an exciting year for Shelter House’s Community Case Management program. With the support of a grant from the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, Shelter House hired a Community Case Manager and was therefore able to increase the number of people served. The Community Case Management program focuses on homelessness prevention by providing financial assistance and support.

Volunteers and community partners are essential to this success, as they provide the tools necessary to combat homelessness. Their expertise, financial support, and efforts compose the foundation of Shelter House’s commendable work. This year, Shelter House has recognized the following individuals and partners for their outstanding commitment to ending homelessness in our community, and I am very pleased to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Changing Lives Awards: McLean Bible Church Justice Ministry, Mars Incorporated, Gracing Spaces, Greg Ziegler.

Creating New Beginnings Awards: Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging; BB&T Insurance Services, Inc.; Emmanuel Lutheran Church; St. John’s Community Services.

Community Champion Award: Supervisor John Cook.

I congratulate the 2014 Volunteer Award recipients on being recognized for their extraor-

dinary efforts and dedication to Shelter House. I also commend all Shelter House volunteers, as well as the private sector and government partners, who constantly strive to better our community through efforts to provide secure, structured environments, and indispensable support for families in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Shelter House and its many volunteers and community partners. Their selfless work benefits the entire Northern Virginia community and improves the lives of many of our neighbors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EDDIE HADLOCK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of Dr. Eddie Hadlock, President of North Central Texas College. After 40 years of service to NCTC, Dr. Hadlock’s exemplary career is coming to an end.

Dr. Hadlock’s career in education includes two years of public school teaching and 35-plus years as a college teacher and administrator. From part-time teaching assignments, serving as a vocational counselor, and various administrative positions up to president, Dr. Hadlock has served in virtually every area of college operations. Dr. Hadlock currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and has held membership in numerous professional organizations including serving as a member of the Reaffirmation Committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

North Central Texas College’s sterling reputation is a reflection of the committed leadership of Dr. Hadlock. His professional legacy will continue to benefit the students of North Texas for years to come. I join his colleagues and the community in commending North Central Texas College’s President, Dr. Eddie Hadlock for his dedication to education and extend best wishes upon his retirement. It is my privilege to represent North Central Texas College in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF MIKE GARCIA, PRESIDENT OF SEIU UNITED SERVICE WORKERS WEST

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congressman JIM COSTA, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman

ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to honor our dear friend Mike Garcia who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to working families in California.

Mike served as the President of Service Employees International Union United Service Workers West (SEIU USSW) between 1988 and 2014, where he led 40,000 janitors, security officers and airport workers across California in the fight for good jobs. Mike has been involved in the labor movement since 1980, when he began his career organizing janitors first in San Jose and later in San Diego in the "Justice for Janitors" campaign.

In 2010 he oversaw the merger of several local unions into SEIU USWW, a statewide union of property service workers. Mike guided SEIU USWW through years of dramatic growth, taking a union of 1,800 janitors and building a powerful statewide local on the forefront of fighting for immigrants' rights and lifting working families out of poverty.

Mike had a deep understanding of policy and the questions that matter most to working class Californians. He was also extremely brave; willing to face the strongest adversaries when fighting for those who needed his help. According to Mike, his greatest accomplishment was winning the historic janitors' strike of 2000 in Los Angeles, an action he proudly notes "changed the lives of thousands of janitors and their families because USWW members—the real heroes of the strike—laid it all on the line for a chance to win and bring their families into the American middle class."

In retirement Mike will remain a powerful voice for vulnerable populations and a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform to help millions of aspiring citizens achieve better lives.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in honoring Mike Garcia for his service to our Country.

RECOGNIZING BUD ELLIOTT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bud Elliott as he celebrates his retirement as a reporter and news anchor for KSEE24. For 23 years, Bud has been a part of thousands of viewers' lives, and we will all undoubtedly miss watching him on the evening news.

Bud's career in journalism began years before his time at KSEE24. Bud worked at KHOW radio in Denver, Colorado, where he was news director for most of the 1970s. He

also worked as a news anchor at CNN-2, which later became CNN Headline News. Before arriving in Fresno, Bud worked as the main news anchor at the ABC affiliate in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1987, Bud began his career at KSEE24. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to establish a solid reputation in the community for delivering accurate news. While at KSEE24, Bud has worked as the evening news anchor, morning newscast anchor, and morning show co-anchor. He has worked from both behind the desk and out in the field to deliver news that is relevant and important to residents in the Valley.

The commitment Bud has made to his career and the Central Valley has not gone unnoticed. Throughout his time in the San Joaquin Valley, Bud has earned a number of awards for excellence in journalism, including an Emmy and several Associated Press and Radio-Television News Directors Association awards. Most recently, Bud was recognized by the Fresno County Farm Bureau for his work on a four-part series focused on the water challenges that farmers face in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions Mr. Bud Elliott has made to the San Joaquin Valley. The lasting contributions he has made to our community as a news anchor deserve to be commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on July 8, 2014, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 369: "yes;" rollcall No. 370: "yes."

CONGRATULATING LEBANESE TAVERNA ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lebanese Taverna on their 35th Anniversary. Tanios and Marie Abi-Najm immigrated to the United States in 1976, along with their five young children: Dory, Dany, David, Gladys and Grace.

The family boarded a cargo ship, in the dead of the night, to escape the Civil War in Lebanon, bringing only what they could carry. Their final destination was Arlington, Virginia where other family members had already been living. After working in local restaurants for three years, the family saved enough to purchase a small restaurant in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, near their home. Being practical, they kept the original sign, "Athenian Taverna," changing just one word, thus "Lebanese Taverna" was born. Each family member had a role at the original location, whether it was greeting guests, serving

food, cooking in the kitchen or finishing homework at the tables.

Lebanese Taverna today, 35 years later, is a multi-concept collaboration with six restaurants, four quick service cafes, a market, and full service catering division. Tanios and Marie are easing into retirement (although still involved in quality control) while the five siblings, each with their own specialty, operate the business. Today the Abi-Najm children still greet old friends and welcome new ones into the restaurants where they grew up and shared their lives, in keeping with their motto, "good food enjoyed in good company." Lebanese Taverna has come to symbolize the realization of dreams and the rewards of dedication.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Abi-Najm on their 35 years of success. This family embodies the very best ideals of the American dream; hard work and a strong commitment to family and community. Congratulations on 35 years of success!

IN MEMORY OF PAT TORO

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my constituent, Pat Toro, decorated Vietnam veteran, longtime former president of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and retired law-enforcement officer. Pat passed away on Thursday, July 3, at the age of sixty-four, after a long battle with leukemia.

Pat served his country as a Marine during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the United States he continued to serve his community as a criminal investigator for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In addition to being the President of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat held the positions of Southern District Leader and National Director at Large.

During his tenure with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat was profoundly dedicated to improving the quality of life and preserving the history of his fellow veterans. He started a program to provide dignified burials for indigent veterans, which gave ninety people the proper respect they had earned. One of Pat's goals was to construct a memorial that would honor the more than 400 fallen Vietnam veterans from Queens. Although this project remains on hold, completing it would be a fitting honor to Pat's memory.

There is not a better example of unbridled patriotism and service than Pat Toro, who was inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame in 2006.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in memory of the courageous and benevolent American hero, Pat Toro, who provided an immeasurable service to some of the most deserving Americans.